

Department of Defense, Veterans & Emergency Management,
Military Bureau

240TH ENGINEER GROUP



240TH ENG GRP Monthly Newsletter

10-11 December 2005

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HHC 240th DRILLS

15-16 OCT 05	4-5 FEB 06	3-4 JUN 06
5-6 NOV 05	4-5 MAR 06	15-16 JUL 06
10-11 DEC 05 (muta 4)	1-2 APR 06	5-6 AUG 06 (muta 3)
7-8 JAN 06	5-7 MAY 06 (muta 5)	9-10 SEP 06

**FROM THE GROUP
COMMANDER**

We are about to begin a mission that will test the courage and ability of each of us. I believe that once we have completed the task ahead, we will be able to say that we made a difference in the lives of ordinary people in Afghanistan - and that we were among those who helped bring an end to 25 years of war and destruction in that country. I am proud to serve with you in the coming year, and look forward to the great things that you will do for the Afghan people.

LTC Les Swartz, Commanding



FROM THE GROUP CSM

Managing the Pace of Change
By: CSM Paul E. Luce

In my civilian life, I have lots of contacts in the media world. As such, when a few of them found out that the 240th Engineer Group was deploying to Afghanistan, a reporter asked...

"How do you feel about going over there? Don't you think that we've been there long enough?"

Maybe you as well have been asked these same questions. Here was my response... "Don't ask me how I feel or what I think. Ask me what we do. As soldiers, when we're called to duty, we answer the call. The 240th Engineer Group has great

leaders and great soldiers. We're trained and focused to complete our wartime mission(s). We'll oversee and manage engineer projects that'll enhance the infrastructure of Afghanistan and better the lives of its citizenry. We'll be doing what we're trained to do, and our efforts will have real purpose, meaning and worth."

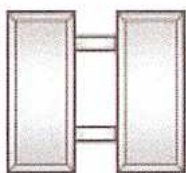
You know; it's been almost a year since Hamid Karzi was elected President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. His goals are our shared goals...i.e., to bring peace to his country, strengthen democracy and the rule of law, and help Afghanistan emerge from the shadows of the last twenty years. He wants Afghanistan to retake its place as a respected member of the fellowship of nations. He dreams of the day when travelers can return freely to rediscover the wonders of Afghanistan to see the snow-

capped mountains and fertile valleys of the Hindu Kush. He dreams of the day when visitors can travel freely to see the wonderful scenery, rivers and glaciers of the Wakham Corridor. He dreams of the day when everyone will have common knowledge of Afghanistan's natural beauty, rich heritage and cultural diversity.

Hamid Karzi's hopes and dreams are becoming more and more real each and every day. We are blessed to be able to help him rebuild his country and better the lives of his citizens. I'm certain that our venture will allow us to gain much more than we give!

Give thanks for what you have in life, and give thanks for this opportunity to serve. As Joshua Chamberlain would say... "Let the presence of a Mighty Spirit wrap its arms around us and the power of the 'vision' pass into our souls."...as we embark on the road to war.

Take care!



HHC COMMANDER

Hello HHC,

The last few weeks have gone by quickly and drill is rapidly approaching. I am hoping that all of you had a great Thanksgiving with your families. As we get ready to deploy remember to take time to spend with your loved ones and friends. They will be great support networks for your family while we are away.

During the December drill we will see a number of newer faces to the 240th. As commander it is exciting to see so many professional soldiers willing and able to

answer their nations call. Welcome and Thank You for your service.

The December drill promises to be hectic and yet at times it will be hurry up and wait. We all need to come to drill prepared to be **flexible** and complete our OCIE showdown.

The Family Program is now more important than ever. Michelle Fate aka SGT Fate, has stepped forward to be our Family Program Coordinator. We are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated individual willing to help support the 240th and our families. I would ask that if any family member or friend is interested in assisting Michelle with our Family Program please see the ISG or me during drill. Finally, our December Holiday Meal was postponed to January 8th this will give us time to complete our preparations for deployment and still allow time to enjoy with our families before we depart.

Eyes of the Eagle,
CPT Damon

FIRST SERGEANT

Hello to all 240th Soldiers, family members, and Family Support Group personnel who are keeping up on the news within the Group. I thought it would be a good idea to pass along what I know to be our Drill and Deployment time line:

December 10-11:

Breakfast served Sat. & Sun. @ 0615-0645

1st formation @ 0700 BDU w/Patrol Cap
Drill Focus Clothing and Equipment
elevation (CIF)

January 7-8:

Breakfast Sat. only

Sunday Holiday family event w/Lunch

Time lines to be communicated in
December.

Annual Training 2006 for January Mob:

Jan. 10-11 AT06 for early call-up
personnel

Jan. 12-21 AT06 for "ALL" 240th EN GP
(CONST)

Jan. 22 MOB date

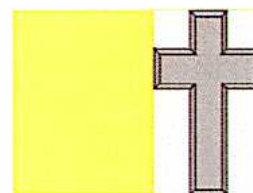
Jan 25 Camp Atterbury processes

That said--I do find myself savoring the day's w/family and friends. There were discussions in Nov. of the Group having Sunday Jan 22 off to be w/family and friends. This has NOT been finalized, but it remains in the discussion stage. So, my advice is if you are so inclined, make tentative plans for Jan. 22 to be a special day w/family/friends.

It is very important to inform family and employers of the above dates as published. Our intent is to focus on integrating the Sections for complete success. As your ISG there are a few goals that will help set us up for near term success:

1. Mob Station "Section level" billeting will be pushed for
2. Establish female soldier buddy teams within Sections
3. Section Officers and NCOs will have time to mold and mentor their Section Soldiers
4. HHC level duties will be assigned equally among/between Sections
5. I will establish, maintain, and nurture a healthy relationship w/our Family Support Groups

"SOLDIERS ALWAYS"
1SG Bernard



THE CHAPLAIN'S WORD

And Mary said; "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on

all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me – Holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers. Luke 1:46-55

As a nun entered the pearly gates, an angel asked her, "is there anyone you'd like to see?"

"Why, yes," she replied. "I have always been devoted to the Holy Mother; I'd love to meet her."

"Very well," said the angel, "Come right this way." The nun was very nervous as she was lead through Heaven, but also excited. Then all of a sudden, the two came upon the most beautiful sight the nun had ever seen. Mary, the mother of Jesus, stood before her. She was dressed simply, but beautifully. Her face shone like the sun, but there was no sense of vanity or aloofness. The nun fell at her feet.

"Oh please, my child" said Mary. "You don't have to kneel to me! Get up and let me hold you." They embraced. "Now," said Mary, "You've come a long way. You must have something you'd like to ask."

"Well," said the nun, "I just wanted to ask you; what was it like to be the Mother of Jesus, the mother of the kindest, greatest person of all time. What was it like to see him grow and to perform miracles, to teach the love of God and to be the savior of all humankind? What was it like for you and Joseph?"

"Actually," Mary replied, "We were hoping he'd become a Doctor."

It's amazing with what and with whom we can become disappointed. Often, at Christmas we experience this. Maybe a gift wasn't all that you expected or you didn't get the

reaction you expected when you gave someone a special gift. Christmas is so filled with anticipation that it is easy to be let down.

In contrast, we hear the words of Mary above. Here was a young, unmarried, Jewish girl of moderate to minimal means and she had recently been told by an angel that she was to have a baby! Not only that, this baby was to sit on the throne of David and be called the Son of the Most High God. That might just be a little more than most of us could handle. But when she spoke with her cousin Elizabeth, she could only give glory to God. She had probably anticipated a normal life, with her fiancé, Joseph, being content and happy to see her children and grand-children lead normal, peaceful lives. Now, she could only begin to imagine what wonderful and terrible things she would witness over the next thirty years and probably had not inkling of how horrible her little child's death would be. Yet, she thanked God. She thanked Him for showing her favor, for blessing her and for noticing her in her small life in a small town.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:4-7)

CH Andy Gibson
240th Group Chaplain

ADMIN Notes

If you have any paperwork that was identified at the SRC make sure you bring it with you this drill weekend.

SFC DONLON

SUPPLY

Make sure when you come to drill that you bring all of your OICE Gear. We are going to have a shake down of everyone. You will be provided a locker, with lock and key, here at the armory.

If you have any issues or questions call 626-4514
SFC Joseph Young

READINESS NCO

Throughout the next month or so many things will change and information will need to get to you and back to us.

I would ask a few things of you to help this work.

First please remain flexible during the next few weeks because things will change.

Second please start checking your e mail account on a regular basis. It will be the best way to send you information and get questions sent to you and answers back.

On that note here is what we know as of Today.

We are looking at loading the following soldiers for Combat Life Saver Course 13-15 Dec 05

1. Branscom
2. Campbell
3. Corriveau
4. Davis
5. Donlon
6. Gibson
7. Hanning
8. Harris
9. Hibl
10. Judkins
11. King
12. Lajoie
13. Leimbach

14. Luce
15. Masessa
16. McKenney P.
17. Moore
18. Scott
19. Wiley
20. Young
21. Jones
22. Rogers
23. Marthia
24. McGee
25. Smith M.

If for some reason you can not attend these dates please contact
SFC Grimshaw
at 626- 4541,
my cell at 446-3825
or email at
sean.grimshaw @us.army.mil

The remaining soldiers that expressed they wanted Combat Life Saver Course we are looking at the possibility of a course in Jan 06.

If we can make that happen,
the following will be loaded for that course.

Beltran; Cyr; Damren; Darling; Emery;
Larrabee; Lagere; McFarland;
Mckenney M; Miller; Shoykhet;
Damon; Hopkins; Bernard; Swartz;
Stickeny; Walker;

ALSO, Please read the attached pages to this newsletter. It has information about other items going on like a Family meeting on Dec 12th or a page on the current living conditions of where we are going (with Pictures)

**ITEMS YOU MAY WANT TO
THINK ABOUT WITH THE
HOLIDAY'S COMING**

If you don't have or can't get right away here are a few things that you might want to put on your wish list. If you can't get them before you leave you can have a family member send them over to you. These items are not required but some of them would be nice to have.

Neck wallet
Small tool kit

Small fan
Fly swatters fly paper, etc.
Toilet paper
Hand sanitizer
Collapsible high-back chair
Small pocketknife (4inch)
Self-adhesive laminate
Extra rank
Nomex gloves
Blank checks / ATM card
Rem oil (better than CLP in hot weather)
Hard case for your glasses
Spare light bulbs for your flashlight
Shades / sunglasses
Pelican case(s) for high \$ items
Football, Frisbee, etc.

Thumb-drive
Shower shoes
Extra PT gear (4 sets)
Tag silencers
Digital camera
Shower curtain
Twin sheet set
Towels x3
Washcloths x5
Insect repellent
Sunscreen
Lip balm
Letter writing stuff
AT&T phone cards (only AT&T phones available)
Trash bags
Ziploc bags
Mirror
Spices
Sewing kit
Insoles
Playing cards
Small first-aid kit
Hair clippers
Coffee Pot w/ accessories
Cups
Baby wipes or no-rinse shampoo / body wash
O.T.C. medications (Motrin, aspirin etc)
Padlocks
Batteries for your electronic devices
Rechargeable batteries w/charger
Small lamp/lantern
Lighter(s)
Electronic handheld game(s)
Pillow
Goggles (vented Wiley-x)
GPS
Extra sneakers
Non-perishable food
Portable stereo

Music
Address book
Journal
Laptop
Portable DVD player
DVD's
Multi-tool
550 cord / clothes line
Clothespins
Coolmax / Under armor t-shirts
Foot powder
Teflon coated socks
MP3 player
Clip-on LED light / headlamp
Stain sticks
Febreeze
Washbasin
Hanging shaving bag (no shelves 2 set a bag on)
Cordless razor
2-3 prong adapters
Folding Chair
Blank CD-Rs
220-100v transformers
USB hub
Wireless Router
Cordless Mouse
Compressed Air
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Dental Floss
Razors
Sturdy Sandals (Teva's)
Nail Trimmers/File
Moisturizing Lotion
Under Armor Boxers
Bug Spray
Blanket
Duct tape
WD-40
Boot Blousing Straps
Ear Plugs

SFC Sean Grimshaw



This Page is it to Talk About the Living Conditions Over There

We will most likely be living in what are called b-huts which are 36'L x 18'W with four windows on each side that represent the total of 8 soldiers who can live in there. But due to rank, it is different. Here is how it breaks down: COL & LTC; 2 to a b-hut (all divided in half) GS-12's (Civilian DoD); 2 to b-hut with a LTC sharing at times MAJ; 3 to a hut CPT & LT; 4 or 5 to a hut CSM shares 1/2 of the BDE CMD hut SGM; 2 or 3 per hut SFC; 4-5 per b-hut SSG; 6-8 SGT 7 Below; 6-8 per hut. All huts have inner walls with separate rooms. Soldiers can modify their huts as they want inside as long as they keep within the safety guild lines. Such as: No inner separation walls higher than 7 feet (meaning no floor to ceiling walls, no doors on individual rooms, can put up curtains for privacy.

They just got internet and cable TV in the b-huts and the cable wires have not been taken care of by the vendors. They are due to return and fix all these hanging wires. The cost is: for both is 50 per month or 25 for cable and 35 for internet separately. You only need to have one person pay for cable tv to have it turned on for everyone in the hut. A cable and internet drop is inside of each room. One each per person. The internet is only turned on per person via a static IP address which makes sure they get their money. Some guys have tried to use wireless routers but so far no luck. So you can bring your home laptop over if you want. Most guys buy computer stuff from Tigerdirect.Com which will ship to this APO address in about two to three weeks. Otherwise a vendor is at the px that sells things but almost double the cost.

With the internet available now in the b-huts, web cams are indeed becoming more popular as well as the Skype program that allow you to make phone calls via internet (very similar to our VOIP). Many soldiers have bought web cams and have had no problems using them. The internet for a b-hut comes in via fiber optics which has speeds faster than DSL/Cable but they are not seeing that at this time. It seems when everyone is online, on say Saturday night (because Sunday is low activity day), its speed isn't as fast. But, it's faster than dial up and the web cam works well.

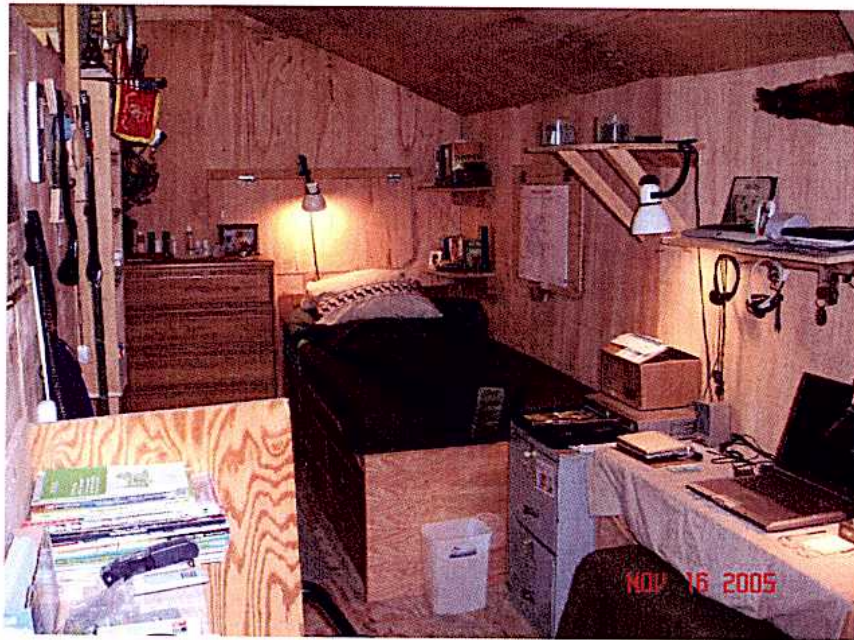
At the px, you can buy laptops, disks, some web cams, some cables, tv's, vcr, dvd players, movies, music cd's, and a few other items, nothing much for desk top computers but a lot for laptops. In non-computer items, you can buy some clothes (don't know why, only civilians can wear them), pt clothes to include running shoes, heatlh and comfort items, books, magazines, a lot of the game programs, GPS, lots of military stuff.

Here is a picture of the Bazaar last Friday (it's almost every Friday).



Mail service is great. You can send letter mail from here for free. Mail from the West coast takes about 3-4 weeks to get here. I suspect from the east coast it would be a lot less. Out going mail seems to be faster.

Most b-huts have different types of beds, soldiers can modify their own. Some have made bed platforms to sleep on, other have beds with real springs and frames, others have the new wooden beds that have four big drawers under it. Some also have a five drawer dresser for clothes.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Lineage and Honors

**HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY
240th ENGINEER GROUP**

Organized 16 June 1880 in the Maine Volunteer Militia at Waterville as Company H, 2d Infantry Regiment

(Maine Volunteer Militia redesignated 28 March 1893 as the Maine National Guard)

Disbanded 12 February 1903 at Waterville

Reconstituted 2 May 1903 in the Maine National Guard at Waterville as Company H, 2d Infantry Regiment

Mustered into Federal service 19 June 1916 at Waterville; mustered out of Federal service 25 October 1916 at Augusta

Mustered into Federal service 15-30 April 1917 at Waterville; drafted into Federal service 5 August 1917

Reorganized and redesignated 21 August 1917 as Company H, 103d Infantry, an element of the 26th Division

Demobilized 28 April 1919 at Camp Devens, Massachusetts

Consolidated 1 January 1922 with Company G, 3d Infantry (organized and Federally recognized 31 August 1918 at Waterville), and consolidated unit reorganized and redesignated as Company G, 103d Infantry, an element of the 43d Division (later redesignated as the 43d Infantry Division)

Inducted into Federal service 24 February 1941 at Waterville

Inactivated 1 November 1945 at Camp Stoneman, California

(103d Infantry relieved 21 May 1946 from assignment to the 43d Infantry Division)

Reorganized and Federally recognized 23 October 1946 at Waterville as Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 103d Infantry

Reorganized and redesignated 2 February 1950 as Company I, 103d Infantry

Converted and redesignated 1 March 1959 as Headquarters Troop, 3d Reconnaissance Squadron, 103d Armored Cavalry

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 240th ENGINEER GROUP

Reorganized and redesignated 1 June 1961 as Headquarters Company, 3d Medium Tank Battalion, 20th Armor

Reorganized and redesignated 1 March 1964 as Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 103d Armor

Converted and redesignated 31 December 1967 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 240th Engineer Group

Location changed 1 July 1996 to Gardiner

HOME STAION: Gardiner

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

World War I

Champagne-Marne

Aisne-Marne

St. Mihiel

Meuse-Argonne

Ile de France 1918

Lorraine 1918

World War II

Guadalcanal

New Guinea

Northern Solomons

Luzon (with arrowhead)

DECORATIONS

Phillippine Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered 17 OCOTBER 1944 TO 4 JULY 1945

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

JOHN W. MOUNTCASTLE
Brigadier General, United States Army
Chief of Military History

Please Join us

Monday, December 12, 2005

**Augusta Armory, Room 209
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

This invitation is for all families that are affected with the
deployment of
The 240th Engineer Group.

- See and hear about the location the group will be deploying to
- Meet the your support team and leadership
- Get a “as-we-know-it-know” update on the deployment
- Have an opportunity to ask questions and gather materials that will help you through this deployment.
- Have an opportunity to meet other family members (spouses, parents, children, siblings, and friends) that will become the 240th Homefront heroes along with YOU!

This is the best place to get answers to questions that are on your mind.

Child care, Teen meeting & Refreshments will be available

Questions can be directed to the Family Program Office
At 1-800-581-9989

Thank you for your service to our Country and
May you have a Happy Holiday!